



PROF. BUDDHA RASHMI MANI



Prof. Buddha Rashmi Mani is the former Director General of the National Museum, New Delhi, and Vice Chancellor of the Indian Institute of Heritage, Government of India. He is widely recognized across the world as one of the finest excavators, art critic, epigraphist, and numismatist, whose multi-faceted expertise in the field of Archaeology has brought about a paradigm shift in understanding India's past.

2. Born on 17th April, 1955, Prof. Mani received his Bachelor of Arts in 1974 and Master of Arts in 1976, standing first class first at Banaras Hindu University, and was awarded the B.H.U. Gold Medal and Altekar Gold Medal. In 1980, he received his Ph.D. degree from B.H.U. on the topic Life in the Kushan Age. From 1978 to 1984, he taught at Banaras Hindu University and the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, after which he was selected by the UPSC to join as Deputy Superintending Archaeologist in the Archaeological Survey of India.

3. Prof. Mani served in the Archaeological Survey of India from 1984 to 2015 in various capacities, including Dy. SA, SA, Director, Jt. DG and ADG. In 2016, the Government of India appointed him as Director General of the National Museum and Vice Chancellor of the National Museum Institute, which was renamed in 2023 as the Indian Institute of Heritage. He retired in April, 2025.

4. While working in the Archaeological Survey of India, Prof. Mani conserved about 150 centrally protected monuments in Maharashtra, Goa, Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir and discovered around 200 archaeological sites. He directed 20 excavations, including Ayodhya (Shri Ram Janmabhoomi), Kapilavastu, Rajghat, Sarnath. Siswania, Sankisa, Lal Kot, Kanishkapur and Ambaran. His excavations at Ayodhya provided evidence to settle the long-pending court case on the site. As DG of the National Museum, he also excavated two sites, Kunal and Kurdi.

5. Prof. Mani has authored six books, about 200 research papers and 15 edited volumes, besides editing the Puratattva and Purapravaha journals of the Indian Archaeological Society for more than a decade. He has led archaeological missions abroad and represented Indian delegations in many Asian, American and European countries, including participation in National and International conferences. Eight Ph.D. scholars have received their degrees under his guidance and two are currently pursuing Ph.D. under his supervision. Presently, he serves as Vice-Chairman of the Indian Archaeological Society and as Professor of Practice, he is the Head of the Department of Archaeology at the Indian Institute of Heritage.